

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the matter of:

FCC MAIL ROOM

Amendment of the Amateur Radio Service Rules
to allow retransmission of the National Weather Service (NWS)
Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN) data.

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To: The Secretary

PETITION FOR RULEMAKING:

I, Jerry John Johnson, WA3WZF, pursuant to section 1.401 of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 1.401, respectfully request that the FCC initiate a rulemaking to amend the FCC Rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 97.113 (e) to allow the retransmission of EMWIN data from any amateur radio station authorized to transmit above 144 Mhz on any frequency authorized for FM type emissions above 144 Mhz. This amendment will enable the rapid dissemination of critical severe weather information, at no cost to the Government, which will result in the saving of lives and property through the early warning of approaching severe weather.

The EMWIN is a severe weather warning system which sends severe weather data directly from the NWS via satellite to any personal computer within the satellite footprint. The computer monitors incoming data and, when an applicable alarm is issued by the NWS, it sounds an alarm and/or triggers an alerting device for the hearing or visually impaired. The data is presently transmitted by the NWS only through their GOES satellites, which require a terrestrial dish antenna and microwave receiver to intercept the data. The cost associated with this distribution method is clearly beyond the average homeowners budget for weather warning devices. The NWS is actively seeking no cost methods of intercepting the data and retransmitting it via local VHF or UHF transmitters, thereby enabling reception with inexpensive consumer-grade receivers or scanners.

The Amateur Radio Service (ARS) has long been involved with emergency communications, and has demonstrated an excellent response when called upon to provide assistance during times of natural disaster, in fact, the ARS maintains a network of storm spotters (SKYWARN) who provide input to the NWS both before and during severe storms. A logical addendum to their volunteer efforts is the retransmission of the resultant data from the NWS.

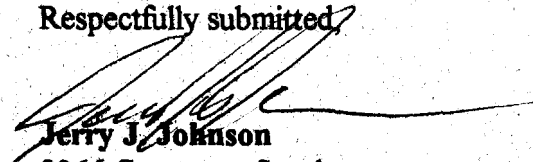
The EMWIN transmission format uses Bell-202 signals at a signalling rate of 1200 BPS which is similar to existing ARS packet radio. It occupies a standard voice channel and is FM modulated at +/- 2.5 Khz. CW identification can be inserted into the data stream by the transmitting station in accordance with FCC Rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 97.119.

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For the reasons stated herein, I request that the Commission promptly issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to amend the FCC Rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 97.113 (e) to allow the retransmission of this life-saving data by amateur radio operators.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry J. Johnson
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